REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested.

A significant aspect of the disclosed preferred embodiment of the present invention involves the combination of the following two features:

(i) the simulator piston (42) is caused to move by fluid pressure in the second pressure chamber (R2), and

(ii) the idle stroke of the floating piston (13) starts (at point B) and ends (at point C) during the idle stroke of the rod piston (12), and the simulator piston (42) starts its stroke (at point D) after the completion (at point C) of the idle stroke of the floating piston (13) and before or upon completion (at point E) of the idle stroke of the rod piston (12). (See Fig. 2 showing the points A-E.)

In order to place the point D between the point C and the point E, the simulator piston (42) needs to be moved by fluid pressure in the second pressure chamber (R2), because no increase in pressure in the first pressure chamber (R1) is generated before the point E (that is, during the idle stroke of the rod piston (12)). An increase in pressure in the second pressure chamber (R2) can be generated after the point C (that is, after the idle stroke of the floating piston (13)).

With this arrangement, while the rod piston (12) (accordingly, the brake operating member (52)) is performing a stroke, the floating piston (13) starts its stroke and then the simulator piston (42) starts its stroke. Thus, shocks that would be associated with a start of movement of the floating simultaneously with the start of movement of the simulator piston are avoided, thereby improving an operator's feeling of operating the brake-operating member (52).

Claim 3 has been amended to recite the combination of the above-discussed features (i) and (ii), which combination is not disclosed by *Bourlon et al.* or *Schunck* that were relied upon in the first Official Action. *Bourlon et al.* discloses a simulator piston 50, and explains that the simulator piston is caused to move by pressure build-up in the chamber 58, which also causes the floating (secondary) piston 60 to move (see column 5, lines 1-6 and 23-25 of *Bourlon et al.*) *Schunck* does not disclose a system of the type having a simulator piston which is caused to move by fluid pressure. Rather, *Schunck* discloses an elastic body 60 acting as a simulator and it is not seen how such a disclosure can provide motivation for radically changing the operation of a fluid-actuated simulator mechanism such as that of *Bourlon et al.*

Thus, it would not have been obvious to modify *Bourlon et al.* in view of *Schunck* to arrive at the presently claimed invention, and it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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